



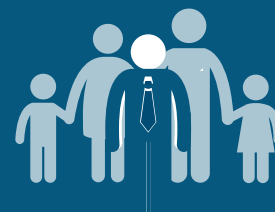
# HB 3063

THE MICHAEL HICKSON ACT  
REPRESENTATIVE SMITHEE



## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

HB 3063 is about establishing protections for people with disabilities who have a **professional guardian** and their next-of-kin. This bill honors Michael Hickson, who passed away because these protections were not in place when he got COVID-19.



A professional guardian is a third-party, outside the family, assigned to a ward by the court. They do not have personal ties to those under their guardianship.



### CARE

This bill states that professional guardians must provide clothing, food, medical care, and shelter. Guardians must also provide care, supervision, and protection for the people under their guardianship. Michael did not have these guarantees and was denied food, water, and treatment.



### COMMUNICATION

This bill guarantees that professional guardians will make earnest attempts to contact the next-of-kin of someone under their guardianship to consult them regarding critical care or end-of-life decisions. It also requires guardians to acquire and maintain updated contact information for next-of-kin.



### COSTS

This bill has no fiscal note. It does not have training requirements or ask for a personnel increase. It is a protection and communication bill.

Michael Hickson (right) was a loving husband and father of five. He had multiple disabilities, so when he caught COVID-19, medical professionals said treatment was "futile." His professional guardian agreed, and he was put in hospice. Michael died six days later. If his next-of-kin, his wife, had been consulted, they would have known how much he loved his life and wanted to live it.

